

Senate Bill 3 and Environmental Flows



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Environmental Quality
Water Availability Division
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The Legislation



In 2007, the 80th Legislature passed **Senate Bill 3**.

This legislation changed the process by which TCEQ considers how much water needs to remain in the river for the environment when TCEQ processes water rights permit applications for new appropriations of water.



The SB 3 Process - Groups

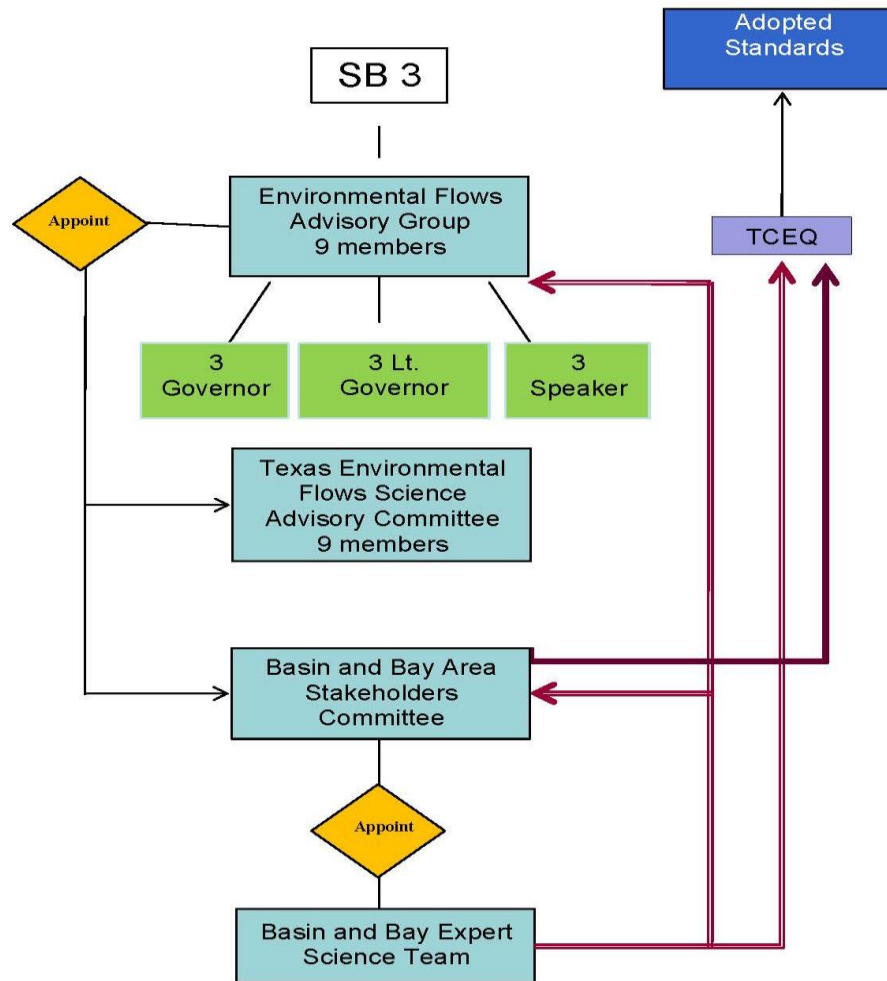


SB 3 established the statewide Environmental Flows Advisory Group.

This group appointed the statewide Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the local Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committees (BBASC).

Each Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee appointed the Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) for their basin and bay system.





The SB 3 Process – Science Team



The Basin and Bay Expert Science Team develops environmental flow regime analyses and a recommended environmental flow regime.

These recommendations are provided to the stakeholders and TCEQ and only consider reasonably available science.

The Science Team report does not take into account the need for water for other uses.



Environmental Flow Regime



A schedule of flow quantities that reflects seasonal and yearly fluctuations and typically would vary geographically, by specific location in a watershed, and that are shown to be adequate to support a sound ecological environment and to maintain the productivity, extent, and persistence of key aquatic habitats in and along the affected water bodies.



The SB 3 Process – Stakeholders



The Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee reviews the Science Team's recommendations and considers them along with other basin specific factors such as the present and future needs for water for other uses.

The Stakeholders recommend environmental flow standards for their basin and strategies to meet those standards and submit their recommendations to TCEQ.



The SB 3 Process - TCEQ



The TCEQ considers the recommendations from the local Science Team and Stakeholders, as well as input from the Environmental Flows Advisory Group and the Science Advisory Committee.

The TCEQ then adopts environmental flow standards for the basin and bay system.

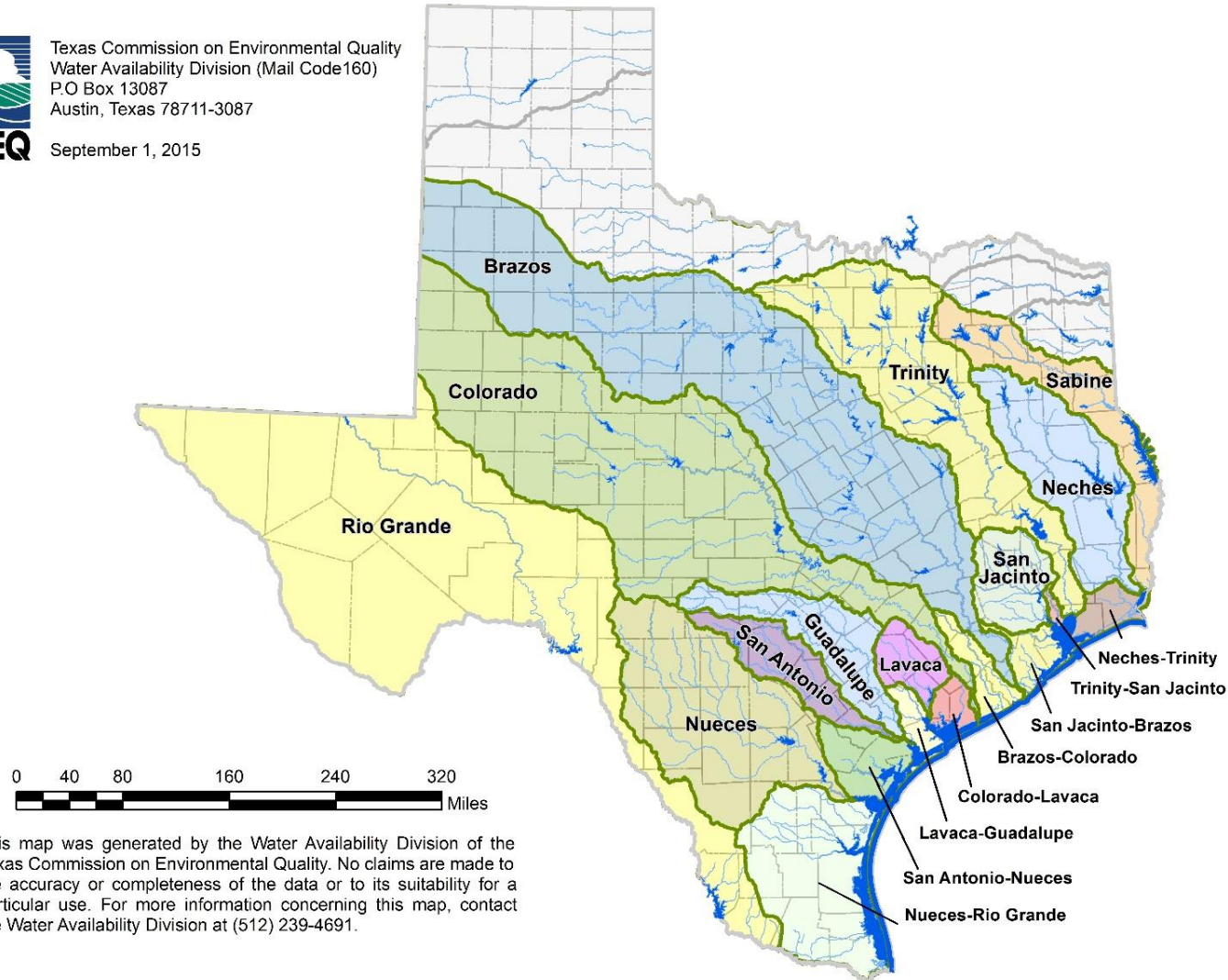


Basins with Adopted Environmental Flow Standards



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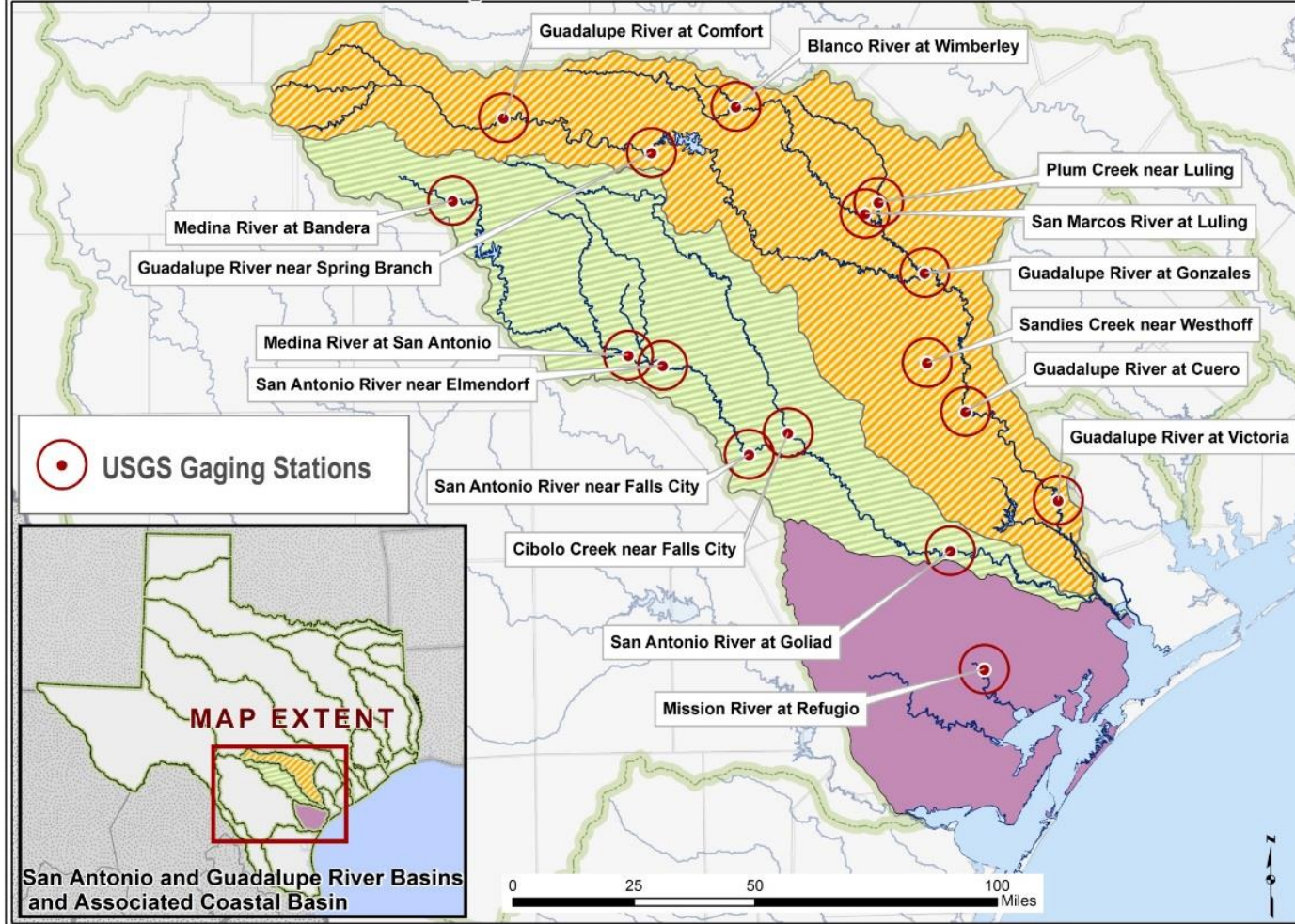
The SB 3 Process – Rules



In 2012, TCEQ adopted rules for:

- the river basin and bay system consisting of the **Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays.**

Measurement Points for Proposed Subchapter E - San Antonio and Guadalupe River Basins and Associated Coastal Basin



The SB 3 Process – Adaptive Management



SB 3 is an adaptive management process.

After submitting their recommendations to the TCEQ, each Stakeholder Committee, with the assistance of their Science Team, must prepare a work plan.

The work plan includes recommendations for studies to refine the adopted standards.

Based on the work plan studies, the Stakeholders can submit recommendations to TCEQ for revisions to the adopted standards.

Resources



- ★ TCEQ Environmental Flows Page:

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr_technical-resources/eflows

- ★ Guadalupe and San Antonio Basin Page:

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr_technical-resources/eflows/guadalupe-sanantonio-bbasc-bbest

Contact Information



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